

Message

**From:** ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
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**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ECOS Welcomes New Members, Executive Director, & More

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## ECOSWIRE

Friday, January 4, 2019

Vol. 21 No. 01

### Table of Contents

- [Message from New ECOS Executive Director Don Welsh](#)
- [Partial Federal Government Shutdown Continues](#)

- [Senate Confirms Dunn and CEQ Lead](#)
  - [ECOS Member Transitions](#)
  - [State News You Can Use](#)
  - [Need-to-Know News in Water & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants](#)
  - [Upcoming Events](#)
- 

## **Message from New ECOS Executive Director Don Welsh**



I am happy to be on board as the new Executive Director. I look forward to serving the officers and members of ECOS as you work to improve the nation's environmental protection system. I already can call many of you friends, and I hope to get to know the rest of you soon. Feel free to contact me for any help you need from ECOS, or just to say hello. I can be reached at [dwelsh@ecos.org](mailto:dwelsh@ecos.org) or 202-266-4929.

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# **Partial Federal Government Shutdown Continues**

Today marks two weeks since about a quarter of the federal government's funding lapsed. While some affected agencies like U.S. EPA were able to stay open past the funding lapse with carryover money, that funding has run out for most. EPA's funding ran out and the agency shut down as of midnight, Friday, December 28, 2018.

While EPA is closed for regular business and most employees are on furlough, key employees in headquarters and regional offices are still at work to address essential functions. If your agency needs help reaching someone at EPA on a crucial issue, please contact ECOS staff. Additionally, as the partial shutdown lengthens, please share information with ECOS staff on how it affects your agency's work.

The 116th Congress convened for the first time on January 3. They have not yet reached an agreement between the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the President to fund the closed portions of the government. [Welsh, Hanson]

## **Senate Confirms Dunn and CEQ Lead**

During the final hours of the 115th Congress on January 2, the Senate confirmed former ECOS Executive Director and General Counsel Alexandra Dapolito Dunn to lead U.S. EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention as its Assistant Administrator. Dunn will leave her position as Regional Administrator for EPA Region 1 to head the chemicals office.

The Senate also approved Mary Neumayr to lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Neumayr has been serving as Chief of Staff at CEQ for nearly two years. She has previous experience working for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Justice. [Hanson]

## **ECOS Member Transitions**

### **New Members Named in Four States**

## ***New Maine DEP Commissioner Comes from Attorney General's Office***

This week, Maine's new governor, Janet Mills, announced that she has selected Jerry Reid as her choice to be the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Reid currently serves as Chief of the Natural Resources Division in the Maine Attorney General's Office. He has held this position since 2007 and has more than two decades of experience in the Office. He has degrees from Wesleyan University and the University of Maine School of Law. His nomination will have to be confirmed by the Maine legislature.

## ***Clean Energy Leader Takes the Helm in Michigan***

Liesl Eichler Clark was appointed the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on January 1. Clark left her position as co-founder and partner of 5 Lakes Energy, a clean energy policy consulting firm, to join DEQ. After serving as Deputy Director of Energy Programs at the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth under a previous governor, Clark helped create and lead the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council. Clark holds a Master's degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University.

## ***Former Deputy Commissioner to Lead Connecticut DEEP***

Last week, Connecticut governor-elect Ned Lamont nominated Katie Dykes to be Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Dykes, currently chair of Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, served as DEEP's deputy commissioner from 2012 to 2016. In previous positions, Dykes has been deputy general counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality, worked at the U.S. Department of Energy, and chaired the board of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. She holds undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University. Her nomination will have to be approved by the state legislature.

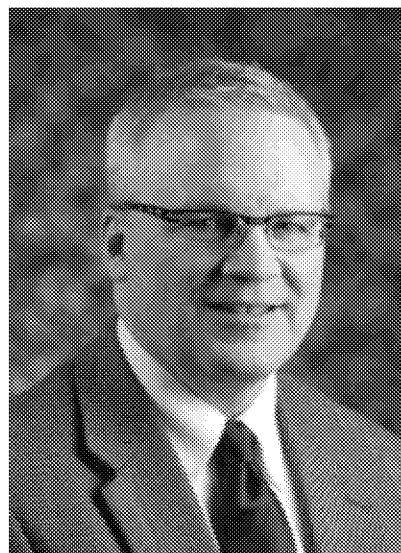
## ***Corporate and Public Affairs Executive Tapped for Minnesota PCA***

This week, Minnesota Governor-elect Tim Walz announced his selection of Laura Bishop as Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA). In the corporate sector, Bishop recently served as Chief Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility Officer for Best Buy Co., Inc. Prior to that she held numerous positions in the public sector including roles with the State of Minnesota, the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. State Department. Bishop holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a Master's degree from the University of Michigan.

## **Two ECOS Past Presidents Retiring from State Service**



*Martha Rudolph*



*John Stine*

Next week, both John Stine of Minnesota and Martha Rudolph of Colorado are retiring from their positions leading their state's environmental agencies. Stine, ECOS President in 2016-2017, led ECOS during the development of the Cooperative Federalism 2.0 initiative and was a leading force behind [ECOSResults](#). Rudolph served as ECOS President in 2015-2016 and was a driver for the development of ECOS' first [Strategic Plan](#) and worked to connect state environmental and health agencies through efforts like the [ECOS-ASTHO-EPA Memorandum of Agreement on Public and Environmental Health Initiatives](#). With nearly 20 years experience leading state environmental agencies and being involved in ECOS between them, they will be missed by the members and staff of ECOS but their legacy will be felt for years to come. [Hanson]



## **State News You Can Use**

[Washington Awards its First VW Settlement Grants](#)

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[New York Recommends Lowest Limits on PFAS, 1,4 Dioxane](#)

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[Texas Identifies Business Improvements for Legislators](#)

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[Florida Park Fit Initiative Promotes Outdoor Activity in State Parks](#)

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[Cleanup of Montana Superfund Site Nears Completion](#)

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# Need-to-Know News in Water & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

## Deadline Extended for WIIN Grant

*Area of Focus: Water*

U.S. EPA has extended the deadline for states to submit notices of intent to participate in the new Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN) grant program to **February 11**. This new \$20 million grant program supports voluntary testing for lead in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities.

State governors or designees interested in the program can email their notice of intent to participate or any questions to [WIINDrinkingwatergrants@epa.gov](mailto:WIINDrinkingwatergrants@epa.gov). Below is an example email:

*On behalf of the state/territory of \_\_\_\_\_, I submit this email as notice of intent to participate in the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Drinking Water Grant program as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act. The (insert the State/territory Department/agency here) will serve as the lead state/territory agency for this program.*

*Please send any following up information pertaining to the grant program to the following:*

*Name:*

*Phone number:*

*Email:*

*Mailing address:*

To learn more about the WIIN grant program, visit [www.epa.gov/safewater/grants](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/grants).

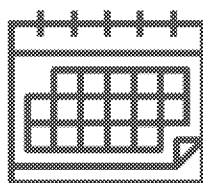
[Swanson]

## MI Science Panel Releases Report on Managing PFAS

*Area of Focus: Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants*

On December 18, the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) published findings of the independent PFAS Science Advisory Committee. The committee, appointed in early 2018 by Governor Rick Snyder, examined health advisory levels, adverse health outcomes, remediation and mitigation aspects, and environmental exposure pathways of PFAS, providing the state with a better understanding of available toxicological and environmental health science and evidence-based recommendations to guide Michigan's response to these contaminants. The report, which focuses on PFOA and PFOS, provides a general understanding of human health risks associated with PFAS and outlines 17 recommendations to the state in its ongoing response to PFAS contamination. Michigan may choose to use this information, as well as federal guidance and regional and regulatory considerations, to target their future response efforts.

See the full report [here](#). [Longworth]



## Upcoming Events

### ECOS PFAS Caucus Call

ECOS will hold its second PFAS Caucus call on **January 15 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The call will focus on the results and next steps of the PFAS gap analysis state activities assessment. For more information or to be included in future Caucus distributions, email



## **U.S. EPA on PFAS Treatment of Small Systems**

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will host its small systems monthly webinar on **January 29 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern** to discuss treatment technologies for removing chemicals of concern, specifically PFAS, cyanotoxins, perchlorate, and 1,4 dioxane. More information on the webinar and registration is [here](#). [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA and Army Share Opportunities for WOTUS Engagement**

The U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are hosting several opportunities for state input on the proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule as part of the public review process. The focus of the state discussion sessions will be to hear the input of state officials on the proposed new definition and discuss implementation considerations.

### **State Meetings:**

The EPA and Army will be hosting a half-day discussion forum for state officials at the following locations: Kansas City, Kansas, on **January 22**; Santa Fe, New Mexico, on **February 6**; and Savannah, Georgia, on **February 20**. State officials who would like to attend any of these meetings should send an email to [wotus-outreach@epa.gov](mailto:wotus-outreach@epa.gov) to receive meeting details and registration information. The state meetings will coincide with similar meetings with tribal representatives. State officials are also welcome and encouraged to attend the public events described below.

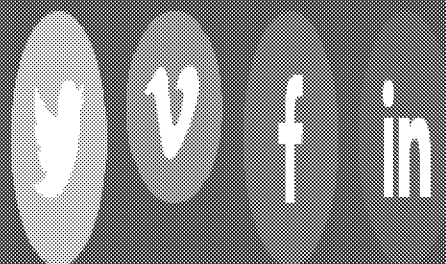
### **Public Informational Webcast & Public Listening Session:**

The agencies have also scheduled a public webcast to help explain key elements of the proposed "Revised Definition of Waters of the United States" on **January 10 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**. The entire webcast will be posted on the EPA WOTUS website. Registration is limited to 2,000 attendees, so interested parties are encouraged to view with colleagues. For additional information and to register, please visit [here](#).

In addition, the agencies have scheduled a public listening session on the proposed rule

on **January 23 at 1-8 p.m. Central** (coinciding with the tribal and state discussion forums) at the Reardon Convention Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The last day to pre-register to speak at the hearing will be **January 17**. Additionally, requests to speak will be taken the day of the hearing at the hearing registration desk, pending availability. For additional information and to register, please visit [here](#).

The EPA and Army plan to seek additional opportunities to engage with states as the public comment period progresses. [Piper]



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